Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-6.   Cancelled.

7.   (Original) An image processing method for a multi-function image processing apparatus (MFP) that is coupled to a network, the method comprising:

a)   receiving a local image processing request, the local image processing request not being received by way of the network;

b)   processing the local image processing request;

c)   receiving a network image processing request sent over the network while the MFP is processing the local image processing request;

d)   denying the network image processing request;

e)   completing the local image processing request started in step b); and

f)   placing the MFP in a mode that is capable of accepting a new processing request, wherein the new processing request may be either another local image processing request, the network image processing request denied in step d), or another network image processing request.

8.   (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the local image processing request is at least one of a copy, scan or print request.

9.   (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the network image processing job request denied in the step d) is stored in a memory, and is performed by the MFP as a first job request after the local image processing request has been completed.

10.   (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein, when the MFP is processing the first job request and another local image processing request, not sent over the network, is received by the MFP, the method further comprising:

g)   temporarily halting processing of the first job request and storing data regarding the processing of the first job request in memory;

h)   processing the another local image processing request to completion; and

i)   completing the first job request from a point where the first job request was halted in step g).

11.   (Original) An image processing method for a multi-function image processing apparatus (MFP) that is coupled to a network, the method comprising:

a)   receiving a network image processing request sent over a network;

b)   processing the network image processing request;

c)   receiving a local image processing request, not sent over the network, while the network image processing request is still being processed;

d)   temporarily halting processing of the network image processing request;

e)   processing the local image processing request to completion; and

f)   continuing processing of the network image processing job request from a point where the network image processing request was halted in step d).

12.   (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the step of processing the network image processing request comprises using an image processor that comprises a first FIFO that receives network image data of the network processing request and a second FIFO that sends network image-processed data, and

wherein the step of temporarily halting processing of the network image processing request comprises halting a clock provided to the first FIFO and the second FIFO.

13.   (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein the local image processing request utilizes an interface unit to transfer data between components of the MFP, and wherein the network image processing request does not utilize the interface unit to transfer data between components of the MFP.

14.   (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the local image processing request does not utilize the first and second FIFOs of the image processor for image data transfer to and from the image processor.

15.   (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the network image processed data is temporarily stored in a memory of the MFP before being transferred over the network to a device that initiated the network image processing request.